



Nihani Riza <nriza@usaid.gov>

EG DGP project OPTIMIZE (Nucleus Foundation) - Categorical Exclusion

1 message

Nihani Riza <nriza@usaid.gov>

Mon, Jun 10, 2013 at 10:03 AM

To: Bandula Nissanka <bnissanka@usaid.gov>

Cc: Mary Ackley <mackley@usaid.gov>, Winnie Lau <wlau@usaid.gov>

Dear Nissanka,

As Dennis has advised below, please consider his email confirmation that the project qualifies for Categorical Exclusion, and that the approval of a separate SIEE is not necessary since the project's activities falls under the DGP programmatic IEE. I would still encourage you to keep the attached documents in your records, noting the following:

1) The recommendation by the REO to engage the MEO in providing advice on the Scope of Work (SOW) for implementers.

2) It is responsibility of the A/COR to inform the MEO and BEO of any changes in the scope and nature of the approved activities, which may require the revision of the approved Threshold Decision. As with all USAID-funded programs, and pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3(a) (9), if new information becomes available which indicates that any of the proposed actions to be funded by under this program has a "significant" or "potentially "significant" determination, the threshold decision for those actions will be reviewed and revised by the Mission Environmental Officer, and appropriate action will be taken.

Thank you,
Nihani

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dennis Durbin** <ddurbin@usaid.gov>

Date: Wed, Jun 5, 2013 at 7:50 PM

Subject: Re: SIEE for your review and approval - OPTIMIZE (Nucleus Foundation)

To: Nihani Riza <nriza@usaid.gov>

Cc: Bandula Nissanka <bnissanka@usaid.gov>, Mary Ackley <mackley@usaid.gov>, Winnie Lau <wlau@usaid.gov>

Hello Nihani,

The project as proposed is covered under the Programmatic IEE for the Development Grants Program approved in 2008 and valid through this FY13. A new programmatic has been prepared and finalized I believe.

The following citation in 22 CFR 216.2 (c) (1) (ii) is NOT a categorical exclusion, rather, a criterion for determining the categorical exclusions listed in 22 CFR 216(c)(2).

I confirm that this project qualifies for Categorical Exclusions:

- 22 CFR 216.2 (c) (2) (i) as activities involving "education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.); and

- 22 CFR 216.2 (c) (2) (iii) as activities involving "analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings."

Projects that fall under the approved categorical exclusions in the Programmatic DGP IEE do not require additional environmental review or a formal Request for Categorical Exclusion document. The PIEE already approves these activities. This email confirmation concludes the 22 CFR 216 review process. No further action is required provided the project remains within the scope of the approved categorical exclusions above.

Dennis

On Wed, Jun 5, 2013 at 12:50 AM, Nihani Riza <nriza@usaid.gov> wrote:

Dear Dennis,

Please find attached the draft SIEE for the EG DGP project in Sri Lanka "Optimizing Micro Enterprise Development and Agricultural Productivity in the Northern Province" (OPTIMIZE) for your review and approval.

Thank you,
Nihani

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Andrei Barannik** <abarannik@usaid.gov>

Date: Mon, Jun 3, 2013 at 12:00 PM

Subject: Re: SIEE for your review and approval - OPTIMIZE (Nucleus Foundation)

To: Nihani Riza <nriza@usaid.gov>

Cc: Mary Ackley <mackley@usaid.gov>, Bandula Nissanka <bnissanka@usaid.gov>, Winnie Lau <wlau@usaid.gov>

Dear Nihani - as I'm on annual leave, I delayed with review - few comments:

- I think that, in view of the scope and nature of the activities, CatEx is appropriate
- Implementation and Monitoring & Limitations sections should be deleted
- the following last sentence should be added into the "Revisions . . ." - "It is responsibility of A/COR to inform MEO and BEO of any changes in the scope and nature of approved activities, which may warrant the revision of the approved Threshold Decision."
- on signature page add - cced: project files, MEO tracking, OAA.

To capture the environmental dimension, A/COR and OAA should engage MEO in providing advice on the scope of SOW for implementers - this may be established in this CatEx.

With the above, I concur.

BR,
Andrei

On Wed, May 29, 2013 at 12:33 AM, Nihani Riza <nriza@usaid.gov> wrote:

Dear Andrei,

Please find attached the draft SIEE for the EG DGP project "Optimizing Micro Enterprise Development and Agricultural Productivity in the Northern Province" (OPTIMIZE) for your review and approval.

The project will provide training and advisory services to improve the productivity of 1,700 micro enterprises and 10,000 small scale agriculture producers and strengthen the capacity of local government authorities. Although the project's activities will not directly have any environmental impact, it may change the practices of the micro-enterprises and agriculture producers, which may indirectly have a potential negative environmental impact. The beneficiary group seems large, but it is worthwhile to note that some of the training/advisory services will be targeted (the project will select beneficiaries from this group) while most of the training/advisory services is about creating the environment (through knowledge centers) for improving access to better knowledge, and this is expected to reach/benefit the targeted numbers.

Considering the above, can we still keep the threshold as a Categorical Exclusion, and make a recommendation in the IEE to ensure that the training and advisory services will include environmental best practices? This would be keeping with the recommendation you made recently for the CSR Council IEE as well, which had a similar project background. For example we could recommend including a session on environmental best practices during the active training, or making such information (through already existing booklets, leaflets from the Environment/Agriculture ministries etc.) available to producers and micro enterprises in the knowledge centers? What do you recommend?

Best,
Nihani

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Andrei Barannik

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3 attachments



signature page_NUCLEUS.pdf
259K



Final Nucleus SIEE 130604.doc
169K



Attachment 1 - DGP PIEE 2008_small.pdf
467K